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Pender - New Hanover County



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE
BURGAW, NORTH CAROLINA

680993

F O R E W O R D

The office personnel of the Pender-New Hanover County ASCS are happy to give to the farmers, businessmen, and all interested persons of Pender and New Hanover Counties, a summary of our ASCS activities for the year of 1968. This report is prepared for the purpose of familiarizing the public with programs which the ASCS administers, and some of the accomplishments of each program.

To administer the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program successfully the cooperation of the farmer is needed, in addition to the united efforts of the National Office, State Office, and County Office. The County ASCS office is responsible for field administration and keeping the farmers informed of all changes in the administration of the program.

The Pender ASCS County Office is located in the county seat, Burgaw, North Carolina, at the corner of Bridgers and Walker Streets. A sub-office is maintained in Wilmington, North Carolina, located in the Post Office Building at Front and Chestnut Streets. Our office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p. m., Monday through Friday.

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A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or ASCS, is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is responsible for administering farm programs enacted by Congress and regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The programs administered by the Pender-New Hanover County ASCS Office in 1968 included the Agricultural Conservation Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Cropland Adjustment Program, Cropland Conversion Program, the Price Support Program, Production Adjustment Program, and Compliance.

The State ASC Committee is composed of five members who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The State Committee is responsible for ASCS policy determination at the state level. State ASCS offices are operated by state executive directors. Representatives from the state offices, known as farmer fieldmen, serve county offices by districts. These men serve as liaison for state and county offices through their guidance on technical problems.

County ASCS offices are under the direction of managers who are hired by farmer-elected county committees. Elections are held annually for the purpose of electing a three-man committee to serve for the entire county, and a three-man committee to serve for each ASCS community in the county. Pender-New Hanover County consists of 16 communities.

The County Committee and community committeemen are called upon continuously to furnish assistance on farm problems to their neighbors although they receive compensation for the actual time worked in an official capacity.

C O U N T Y C O M M I T T E E

The purpose of the county committee is to direct the administration of all ASCS programs, inclusive, of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the Sugar Act of 1948, the Soil Bank Act and any amendments to such Acts, and such other acts of Congress as the Secretary of Agriculture or Congress may designate. The county committee is assisted by the community committee and other personnel employed by the county committee in carrying out the duties of ASCS.

People elected community committeemen elect each year the county committee composed of three regular members and two alternate members.

C O U N T Y C O M M I T T E E

PENDER

Jack M. Woodcock
Roy M. Thomas
DeLeon Fennell

NEW HANOVER

Gerrit Swart
Albert D. Cox, Jr.
M. S. Emmart

A L T E R N A T E S

PENDER

Wiley Batson, First
James V. Eakins, Second

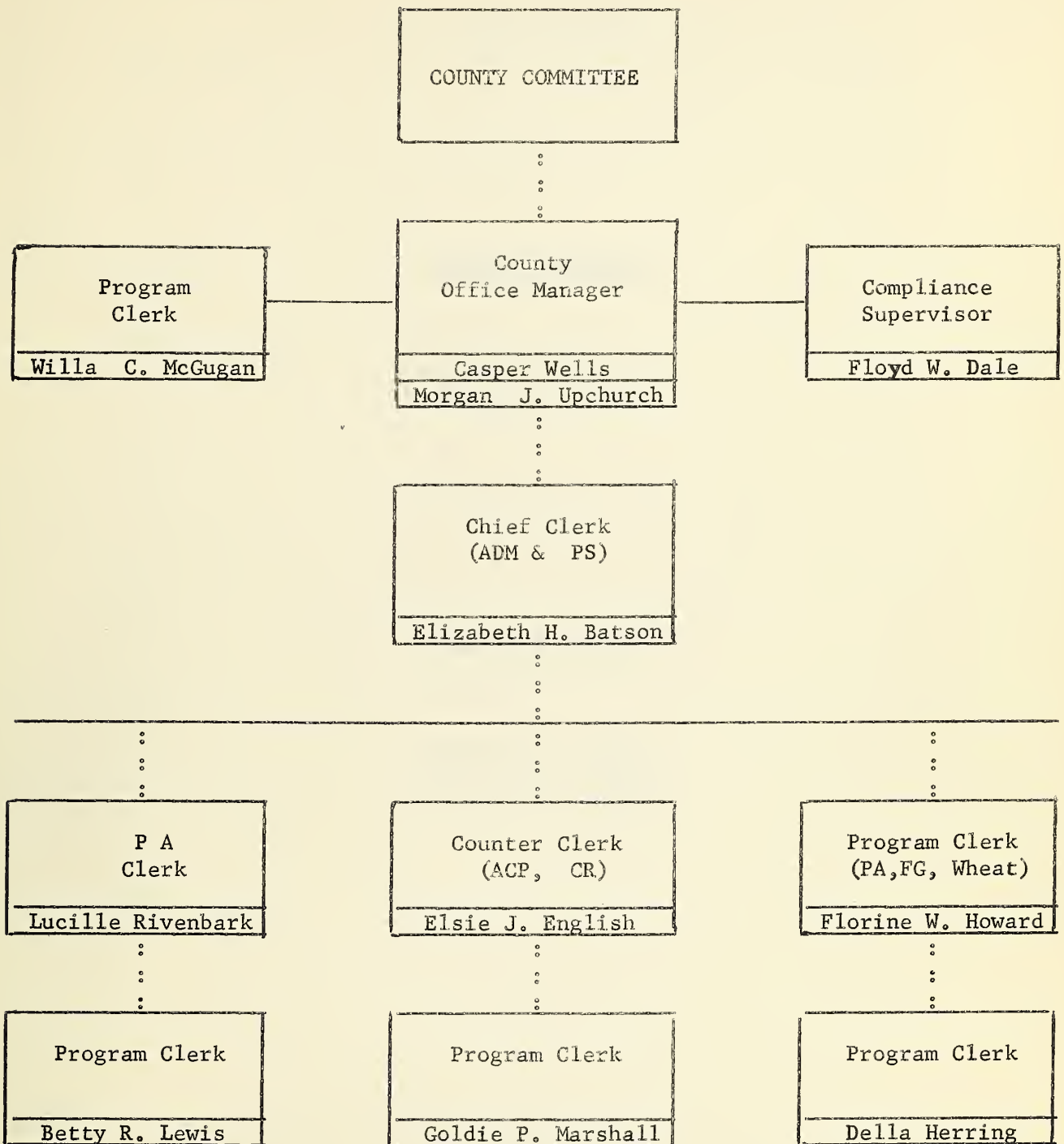
NEW HANOVER

John H. Covil, First
J. D. McCarley, III, Second

D I S T R I C T F A R M E R F I E L D M A N

J. A. Wells

PENDER-NEW HANOVER COUNTY ASCS ORGANIZATION



C O M P L I A N C E S U P E R V I S O R

Floyd W. Dale

F I E L D A S S I S T A N T S

William L. Chadwick
Edward A. James

R E P O R T E R S

William H. Jordan
Horace Vernon Pigford
Howard N. Walker

1968 ASC COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN

BURGAU UPPER

Thomas Cowan
S. J. Harrison
John D. Burns

BURGAU LOWER

Wiley Batson
Jerry Fedoronko
John Leimone

CANETUCK

Earl Moore
B. Z. Corbett
G. F. Pridgen

CASWELL

E. A. Holly
James V. Eakins
Edmond Woodcock

COLUMBIA UPPER

Lewis T. Debose
Edward Moore
Harry Gurganious

COLUMBIA LOWER

G. H. Highsmith, Jr.
David Kelly
A. C. Bond

GRADY

L. H. Caison
Fred White
Mack L. Bell

HOLLY UPPER

Fred Harrell
Major Meadows
Jasper Pierce

HOLLY LOWER

Arthur Sawyer
H. L. Saunders
A. T. Tatum

LONG CREEK

Thomas Peay
Herbert Wagstaff
Lewis H. Rooks

ROCKY POINT

R. L. Batts
Richard Brickhouse
Charlie McLendon

TOPSAIL UPPER

William Edens
Robert King
Woodie Batts

TOPSAIL LOWER

T. W. Shingleton
N. C. Thomas
J. W. Piver

UNION UPPER

Armenius Pigford
J. A. Farrior, Jr.
W. Carl Heath

UNION LOWER

O. E. Pate
C. T. Carr
R. E. McCoy

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The soil and water resources of the farm and ranch lands of our Nation must be protected and conserved. This is essential in order that farms and ranches will continue to have the capacity to produce sufficient food and other raw materials to meet the future needs of the Nation.

All the people of this Nation, not the farmers and ranchers alone, have a stake in and a part of the responsibility for protecting and conserving our farm and ranch lands. Recognizing this, the Congress appropriates funds to share with farmers and ranchers the cost of carrying out needed soil and water conservation measures. The Agricultural Conservation Program is the means of making this Federal cost-sharing available to farmers and ranchers.

Productive soil, adequate water, and well-managed woodland are the very foundation of American agriculture. The Agricultural Conservation Program is the means through which all our people including farmers, share the costs of conserving these essential national resources. This program increases the rate of application of the research, education, technical, credit, and other services of the Department of Agriculture in actual accomplishment of essential conservation work on the land.

Pender-New Hanover County's allocation for the 1968 AC Program was \$42,754. Of this amount, \$2,138 was transferred to the Soil Conservation Service, \$134 to the Forest Service to pay for the technical services performed for the Pender-New Hanover County AC Program. The farmers used approximately \$34,389, which represents 354 farms taking advantage of the AC assistance.

C O M P L I A N C E

Compliance is one of the most important functions of ASCS. In 1967 a relatively new method of compliance was used in Pender County. This method of compliance was used also in 1968. This method was known as Compliance by Certification by the farm operator. All farmers who had allotment crops or were participating in any of the farm programs were required to determine their acreage and report them to their local ASCS office during the specified period. May 31st was the final date for wheat, and June 20th for other crops and land uses in Pender and New Hanover Counties.

Regulations require that a minimum of 10 percent of the tobacco farms be measured and minimum of 25 percent of other crops and land uses. Also, all farms operated by County and Community Committeemen and office personnel were required to be measured.

Before measurement can be started, reporters have to be secured and thoroughly trained. For the compliance activities for 1968, a total of 5 reporters were employed.

DATA FOR 1968

Staking and Referencing Service	203
Measurement Service	7

REGULAR COMPLIANCE PERFORMED

<u>Name of</u> <u>Crop</u>	<u>No. of farms</u> <u>that Certified</u>	<u>No. of farms</u> <u>measured</u>
Wheat-Feed Grain	1103	407
Cotton	103	23
Flue-cured Tobacco	982	181
Peanuts	185	47

CONSERVATION RESERVE

GENERAL

ASC committees administer the remaining phase of the soil bank program - the Conservation Reserve Program. This consists of servicing existing contracts, since 1960 was the last year of accepting additional land under the program.

This program was designed to retire cropland from production for a period of years and to conserve and build soil. It was installed as a temporary measure to store up potential productive resources that will be badly needed in a few years and to help reduce the temporary surpluses in certain commodities. Through the program, farmers are paid an annual payment of the acreage put in reserve and also receive payment for part of the cost of putting the land to a conservation use. A producer signed a three, five, or ten year contract.

If a satisfactory cover crop was growing on the land designated as the conservation reserve, it could be signed up for a three year period. However, if it was necessary for the Government to assist the producer in establishing a satisfactory cover crop, the minimum number of years he might place the land in the conservation reserve was five. If he desired to plant trees, it was necessary for him to sign a ten-year contract.

In addition to the objective of assisting in controlling the production of specific agricultural commodities determined to be in surplus supply, this program has as its further objective to conserve our natural resources and provide farmers an opportunity to place all of their eligible cropland in this program and retire or seek off-the-farm employment.

Some of these contracts expire each year through 1969, with the largest expirations at the end of 1964 and 1968.

The following is the total number of Conservation Reserve contracts in Pender-New Hanover County for 1968.

<u>Number of Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Annual Payments</u>
43	1,472	\$ 21,121

Cumulative total of practices for the years 1956 through 1968.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Acres</u>
A-2 Permanent Cover	247
A-7 Forestry Tree Cover	2,888
Natural Cover	1,090
Total	4,225

I N F O R M A T I O N

Public relations is a very important phase of our work and we are ever conscious of the good that can be accomplished through public relations.

During the year of 1968, in addition to directly administering the farm programs of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Pender-New Hanover County ASCS Office has endeavored to tell the people what we have done, how we have done it, why it was necessary and what benefits have been obtained. The county committee, community committeemen, and office personnel do everything within their power to keep all farmers currently advised on the programs administered by ASCS.

During the year of 1968, the Pender-New Hanover County ASCS Office mailed out newsletters, made spot announcements over Radio Station WPGF, in Burgaw, and presented TV programs over Station WECT TV in Wilmington. In addition, the Pender Chronicle published 42 news releases in 1968.

By endeavoring to maintain good public relations, we feel that we have accomplished one of our main objectives.

PRICE SUPPORT

Government price support programs are administered by ASCS to aid the farmer in obtaining a fair price for what he produces and to promote orderly marketing.

ASCS county offices are authorized to make warehouse and farm storage loans, as well as enter into purchase agreements with eligible producers of grains. Price support was made available to eligible farmers during 1968 on the following commodities: corn, cotton, cottonseed, barley, grain sorghum, oats, rye, honey, peanuts, soybeans, tobacco, wool, and wheat.

Only producers participating in the Feed Grain Program were eligible for price support loans and purchase agreements on feed grains.

The price support program on cotton is carried out by ASCS through the making of warehouse stored loans to eligible producers. Loan documents were prepared by approved loan clerks or ASCS county offices. Most loans were disbursed by county ASCS offices.

Peanut support is available through loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers and also through direct loans to peanut producers. The 1968 crop of peanuts was supported by a national average of \$240.25 per ton. Virginia-type peanuts were supported at \$253.73 per ton in 1968. This is the variety most commonly grown in Pender and New Hanover Counties.

Tobacco support is available through tobacco loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers which, in turn, make advances to eligible producers either directly or through auction warehouses. In 1968 the flue-cured tobacco crop was supported at an average of 61.6¢ per pound.

Any farmer desiring to receive price support for storage of commodities, must provide adequate and acceptable storage for the commodity either on the farm or in an approved commercial warehouse. Some farmers miss the advantage of price support because they do not have adequate storage. If farmers have adequate storage they may obtain price support loans which will enable them to take advantage of any price increase. In a number of cases income is increased above that which would have been received had the commodity been sold on a usually depressed market at harvest time.

FARM STORAGE STRUCTURE AND DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

Since 1949 ASCS county offices have operated a loan program on storage and drying equipment. To help farmers to provide for storing commodities to be placed under price support, loans are made available to producers to finance the purchase of farm storage facilities and mobile drying equipment. Under these loans farmers can borrow up to 85 percent of the cost of new storage bins. Loans on farm storage facilities and drying equipment are repayable in four equal annual installments. These loans bear interest at the rate of approximately 4 percent per annum.

SALE OF CCC SURPLUS BINS

Pender-New Hanover County sold 34 surplus CCC bins during 1968. These bins were dismantled in the Midwest, due to the reduction in feed grain holdings by CCC. They were shipped into North Carolina and sold at a minimum cost to farmers. This increased on-the-farm storage in Pender and New Hanover Counties, thereby enabling our farmers to take advantage of the Price Support Loan Program.

SUMMARY OF STORAGE STRUCTURE AND
DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS DISBURSED

January 1, 1968

December 31, 1968

FARM STORAGE STRUCTURE LOANS

1. Number of loans disbursed during period	<u>11</u>
2. Capacity of loans during period	<u>47,070</u>
3. Amount of loans disbursed during period	\$ <u>12,275</u>
4. Number of loans outstanding Dec. 31, 1968	<u>86</u>
5. Amount of loans outstanding Dec. 31, 1968	\$ <u>164,959</u>

DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

1. Number of loans outstanding Dec. 31, 1968	<u>13</u>
2. Amount of loans outstanding Dec. 31, 1968	\$ <u>47,079</u>

SUMMARY OF FARM-STORED COMMODITY
LOANS DISBURSED

January 1, 1968

December 31, 1968

FARM-STORED LOANS

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF LOANS</u>
Barley	1
Corn	4
Soybeans	17
Tobacco	2
Wheat	1

SUMMARY OF WAREHOUSE-STORED
LOANS DISBURSED

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF LOANS</u>
Corn	2

PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

GENERAL

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as enacted on February 6, 1938, contained the first authorization for our present acreage allotment and marketing quota program. The Act authorizes acreage allotments and marketing quotas on wheat, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, and rice. Prior to 1959, the Act also permitted acreage allotments on corn. However, as a result of the Agricultural Act of 1958 and a vote by farmers in the commercial corn area, acreage allotments and a commercial corn producing area were not established for 1959 and subsequent crops of corn.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas were designed as a means of keeping supplies of agricultural commodities in line with demand. Marketing quotas must be approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting in a referendum before they may be placed in effect. Marketing quotas are administered by use of farm acreage allotments; however, acreage allotments are required by law for some commodities even though marketing quotas are not in effect. This is necessary in order to determine the farm's eligibility for price support when quotas are not in effect.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas are administered as follows:

1. The Secretary of Agriculture determines the amount of cotton, tobacco, peanuts, wheat or rice needed and proclaims this as the quota or allotment.
2. This amount is divided among the states and counties generally on the basis of the past history of growing the commodity.
3. Each farmer receives his share of the national quotas as an acreage allotment based on the production history of the farm.
4. The crop planted on the farm is measured to determine whether or not the farmer is within his allotment.
5. A marketing card is issued to identify the commodity when the farmer goes to market.

T O B A C C O

Pender-New Hanover County had 1706 farms in 1968 with an established flue-cured tobacco allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 2977.24 acres. There was no change in the allotment for 1968.

There were only 1065 of our farms harvesting tobacco in 1968.

We had two farmers in our county who filed an application for a new grower allotment for tobacco for the year 1968. One of these met the eligibility requirements for a new grower allotment and an allotment was approved for this farm in the amount of 1.30 acres.

The Lease and Transfer Program for tobacco was still in effect for 1968. A written request signed by all interested parties had to be filed with the county committee by April 1, 1968. We had 671 farmers who took advantage of this lease and transfer program in 1968, leasing a total of 794.53 acres, and 1,340,273 pounds, which was moved to 353 other farms in the county who had requested this leased tobacco to be moved to their farms.

The Acreage-Poundage Program was approved by growers in a referendum in July of 1967 for the 1968, 1969 and 1970 crops of tobacco. Under this program a farmer is limited to the pounds established for his farm as well as the acreage allotted. Each farm has a marketing quota established for his farm based on the yields for his farm for the five years 1959-63. The total for our county for 1968 was 5,268,363 pounds. This does not include the over and under marketing pounds.

Under the Acreage-Poundage Program if all the pounds are not sold, the farm receives credit for this undermarketing and this can be sold the next year. We had 613,802 pounds undermarketed in 1968. On the other hand, a farm was allowed to sell up to 10 percent above the established marketing quota if he desired. This overmarketing is taken from the marketing quota for the next year. We had 78,474 pounds overmarketed in 1968.

C O T T O N

In 1968 we had 105 farms with a cotton allotment, as compared to 111 farms in 1967. Total allotment on these farms was 267.0 acres. Our cotton allotments have been reduced both in size and in number of farms due to our farmers failing to plant. According to the cotton marketing quota regulations, farmers must plant or release their cotton each year in order to maintain their full allotment.

The following is a summary of the Release and Reapportionment of cotton in our county for 1968:

Number of farms releasing allotments	6
Total acreage released	8.8
No. farms receiving released acreage	0
Total acreage reapportioned in county	0
Acreage surrendered to State Committee	8.8

There was a Cotton Domestic Allotment Program available to farmers in 1968. Farmers were eligible to receive a price support and diversion payments by signing up to participate in this program. The price support payment was paid to farmers for the cotton they had planted. We had 60 producers to sign up under this program, receiving a total payment of \$3675.00.

We did not have any cotton farms remaining in excess of their allotment in 1968.

A Cotton Referendum was held on December 13, 1967, to determine whether farmers favored marketing quotas for the 1968 crop of cotton. Quotas were approved in the referendum and therefore were in effect for the 1968 crop. There were 74 of our farmers who voted in the referendum. Of these, only eight voted against marketing quotas for the 1968 crop. Fifty percent of our eligible producers voted in the referendum. Also, in a referendum held by mail from May 13 through 17, 1968, farmers voted against transferring cotton allotments outside the county. Eighty-nine of our cotton farmers voted in this referendum.

P E A N U T S

For the year 1968 we had 227 farms with an established peanut allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 1516.2 acres. The average size peanut allotment was 7.9 acres. Although peanuts are an allotted crop, any producer may plant up to 1.0 acre without being penalized, providing he does not share in peanuts on any other farm. We had 13 farmers to take advantage of this privilege in 1968, planting a total of 12.5 acres of peanuts.

If a producer does not want to plant his peanuts he can release them to the county committee to be reapportioned to other farms in the county. None of our farmers participated in the release and reapportionment program in 1968.

We had a new program for 1968 which permitted farmers to sell or lease their allotment to other farms in the county. We had 49 farmers taking advantage of this program. Twelve of these farmers sold their allotment to be transferred permanently. Acres sold amounted to 44.8. Thirty-seven farmers leased their peanut allotment to other farms in the county on a temporary basis, in the amount of 220.1 acres.

Peanuts are considered one of the basic cash crops in our county. In 1968, there were 1035.4 acres of peanuts harvested. Total production from this acreage was 1,588,817 pounds, resulting in a yield per acre of 1534 pounds. This compares with a yield of 1806 pounds per acre in 1967.

No requests were made in 1968 for a new grower peanut allotment.

W H E A T

Pender-New Hanover County had 377 farms with an established wheat allotment for the year 1968. The total allotment for these farms was 1263.7 acres.

Marketing quotas were not in effect for the 1968 crop of wheat. Therefore, farmers could plant as much wheat as they wanted without paying penalty on wheat planted above the wheat allotment established for their farm.

We did not have any producers requesting new grower wheat allotments for the year 1968.

The 1968 Wheat Program was a voluntary program whereby the farmers who produced an acreage of wheat within their farm allotment could receive a price support payment for wheat planted on 40 percent of the wheat allotment.

The principal objectives were: (1) To raise the income of wheat growers; (2) To avoid increases in the government costs of wheat programs; (3) To maintain the costs of wheat to flour millers and other processors at a level which will not increase the price of bread to consumers; and (4) To enable the United States to participate in the International Wheat Agreement.

Pender-New Hanover County had 16 with effective allotments of 130.0 acres participating in the 1968 Wheat Program. Price support payments of \$2006.00 were paid to farmers for planting 119.0 acres of wheat.

FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

The 1968 voluntary feed grain program for corn and grain sorghum was designed to reduce total feed supplies in order to strengthen prices.

Bumper crops at home and abroad in 1966-67 led to an unusual worldwide rise in grain production. Thus, importing nations had less need, and exporters had more to offer. The big world crop had pressed hard on U. S. prices.

Feed grain production in the U. S. in 1967 did not exceed estimated demand by a large percentage, but it was enough to cut market prices substantially and to threaten the livestock and poultry industries with serious overexpansion.

Thus, the goal of the 1968 voluntary feed grain program was the diversion of about 30 million acres from production of corn and grain sorghum to conserving uses - 10 million more than were actually diverted in 1967. As in 1966, all program participants to be eligible for diversion payments had to set aside more than the minimum 20 percent of the base acreage.

Feed grain bases were established on 2283 farms in 1968. The total base allocated to these farms was 24,313 acres. There were 1117 farms with bases of 13,663 acres participating in the 1968 Feed Grain Program. These farms signed up to divert 11,170 acres from the production of feed grains.

Total diversion payments earned were \$460,903. Price support payments total \$47,065 were paid farmers for planting 2129 acres of feed grains.

CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Cropland Adjustment Program began in 1966, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with farmers to divert cropland normally used for the production of feed grain, allotment and non-allotment crops to conserving and recreational uses.

The period of agreement is for 5 to 10 years. Farmers may receive cost-share payments for establishing an approved conservation or recreation practice. Annual adjustment payments are made each October for acreage placed under agreement.

The designated acreage must be maintained for the duration of the agreements to prevent erosion and control weeds and insects. No crops may be planted for harvest or harvested on the designated acreage. All allotment crops and feed grain bases for the farm under agreement must be in compliance as well as all other farms in which the producer has an interest.

In 1968, 79 annual payments were made, which amounted to \$26,010.

CROPLAND CONVERSION PROGRAM

The Cropland Conversion Program began in 1966, with the same rules and regulations as the Cropland Adjustment Program, except that the farmer may graze the designated acreage with a reduction in the annual adjustment payment.

In 1968, 4 annual payments were made which amounted to \$1,587.

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO:

Pender County Board of Commissioners and taxpayers of Pender County for our conveniently located office.

State Office personnel who have been so cooperative and understanding in connection with our work and our many problems.

Our District Fieldman, Mr. J. A. Wells, for his helpfulness, patience, and understanding.

Community Committeemen for their loyalty, cooperation and advice.

The Pender Chronicle for relaying to the public ASCS articles and news.

Radio Station WPGF and TV Station WECT for their cooperation and covering of our programs.

Other agricultural agencies for their unselfish cooperation in helping to make our program a success.

Vendors and others who have cooperated so faithfully and generously.

And last, but by no means least, to the farmers of Pender-New Hanover Counties for their fine spirit of cooperation during 1968. We believe the understanding and public relations between the ASCS office and farmers of Pender and New Hanover Counties are unmatched.

Pender-New Hanover County ASC Committees

and Office Personnel

